of pilot in the Indian Air Force, the combat units are being manned almost 100% by making some internal adjustments.

Sustained publicity efforts are on to attract talented youth to the IAF. Schools and Colleges are visited regularly to generate interest. A website is also operative on the internet to provide career information.

Blast at Indian Consulate in Iran

526. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Consulate in Zahidan province of Iran was ripped apart in an blast on 14th June, 2001;

(b) if so, the extent of loss of lives and property suffered in the blast;

(c) whether an enquiry has been held by the Iranian authorities to know the culprits behind this blast; and

(d) if so, the details of the enquiry report and the steps taken to ensure safety of Consulate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) There was a blast outside Indian Consulate in Zahidan on 14th June, 2001.

(b) There was no injury or loss of life. Window panes of the Consulate building were broken and the boundary wall developed some craters on account of the blast.

(c) Yes, the Iranian Authorities are enquiring into the matter.

(d) The enquiry is yet to be completed. The Iranian authorities have stepped up security around Indian diplomatic premises in Iran. In the Indian Consulate in Zahidan, electronic and physical measures for the security of the Consulate have been augmented.

Negotiation for Chinese Occupied Territory in Ladakh

527. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's latest view point with regard to Chinese occupied Indian territory in Ladakh of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) whether Government have contemplated for negotiations with China to regain tritory; and

(c) if so, what is the progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) China continues to be in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 sq. kms. in the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

(b) and (c) India and China seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peaceful consultations. We signed an agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas in 1993 and a second agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas in 1996. These two Agreement provide an institutional framework for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas. Both sides have also agreed to expedite the process of LAC clarification within existing mechanisms.

Indo-Norwegian Cooperation

528. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in which Indo-Norway cooperation have been established;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to establish strong ties with Norway;

(c) whether the matter has been discussed with the Norwegian Prime Minister during his last visit to New Delhi;

(d) if so, the new areas which have been identified for Indo-Norwegian bilateral relations; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As a result of the visit of Mr. Jens Stoltenberg, the Norwegian Prime Minister to India from 19th to 23rd April, 2001, ongoing cooperation between India and Norway, both at the